

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an alternatively spliced prostate-specific membrane (PSM') antigen.
2. An isolated mammalian DNA molecule of claim 1.
3. An isolated mammalian cDNA molecule of claim 2.
4. An isolated mammalian RNA molecule derived from claim 1.
5. An isolated nucleic acid molecule of at least 15 nucleotides capable of specifically hybridizing with a sequence of the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
6. A DNA molecule of claim 5.
7. A RNA molecule of claim 5.
8. A method of detecting expression of a alternatively spliced prostate-specific membrane (PSM') antigen in a cell which comprises obtaining total mRNA from the cell, contacting the mRNA so obtained with a labelled nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 under hybridizing conditions, determining the presence of mRNA hybridized to the molecule, and thereby detecting the expression of the alternatively spliced prostate-specific membrane (PSM') antigen in the cell.
9. An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2 operatively linked to a promoter of RNA transcription.

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10. A vector which comprises the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
- 5 11. A host vector system for the production of a polypeptide having the biological activity of the alternatively spliced prostate-specific membrane (PSM') antigen which comprises the vector of claim 10 and a suitable host.
- 10 12. A host vector system of claim 11, wherein the suitable host is a bacterial cell, insect cell, or mammalian cell.
- 15 13. A method of producing a polypeptide having the biological activity of the prostate-specific membrane antigen which comprises growing the host cells of the host vector system of claim 12 under suitable conditions permitting production of the polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide so
20 produced.
14. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a prostate-specific membrane antigen promoter.
- 25 15. A polypeptide encoded by the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
- 30 16. A method of detecting hematogenous micrometastatic tumor cells of a subject, comprising (A) performing nested polymerase chain reaction (PCR) on blood, bone marrow or lymph node samples of the subject using the prostate specific membrane antigen primers, and (B) verifying micrometastases by DNA sequencing and Southern
35 analysis, thereby detecting hematogenous micrometastatic tumor cells of the subject.

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17. The method of claim 16, wherein the primers are derived from prostate specific antigen.
- 5 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the subjects is administered hormones, epidermal growth factor, b-fibroblast growth factors, or tumor necrosis factor.
- 10 19. A method of determining prostate cancer progression in a subject which comprises: a) obtaining a suitable prostate tissue sample; b) extracting RNA from the prostate tissue sample; c) performing a RNase protection assay on the RNA, thereby forming a duplex RNA-RNA hybrid; d) 15 detecting PSM and PSM' amounts in the tissue sample; e) calculating a PSM/PSM' tumor index, thereby determining prostate cancer progression in the subject.
- 20 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising performing in-situ hybridization.

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